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2018:

A YEAR OF
SAD SONGS &
SELF-DISCOVERY



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Illustration by
Loren Purcell

Editorial

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COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler,
Tony Libera, Michael Madden,
Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Galen Fletcher, Alma Guzman,
Lucy Hawthorne, E. Katie Holm,
Shelly Mosman, Tony Nelson,
Colin Michael Simmons

Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne

Production

DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jackie Kilmer

Publisher

Mary Erickson

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MARKETING COORDINATOR
Emma Engeldinger
MARKETING INTERN Molly Kwakenat

Business and Administration

FINANCE MANAGER Bernadette Botoshe
STAFF ACCOUNTANT Du Nguyen Ho

City Pages

650 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1300,
Minneapolis, MN 55488
PHONE 612.375.1015 **FAX** 612.372.3737
E-MAIL adinfo@citypages.com
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THE SHORTLIST

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DARIN KAMNETZ

THE STAT SHEET

142 lbs.

Weight of a cougar found in Nimrod, Minnesota, after it was hit by a car

513

Decline in the number of Minnesota high school sports referees since 2011, largely attributed to fan abuse

\$25 million

Amount Sears is asking a bankruptcy court to grant in executive bonuses, while laying off thousands of workers

\$1.8 billion

Amount public schools lost in 28 states last year due to tax subsidies for corporations

“If one Muslim makes an Islamic Republic, what does a whole bunch of fake Christians make?”

Reader Marnie Rosie responds to “As Ilhan Omar is introduced to America, the religious right freaks out,” at citypages.com.

TRUMP LOVE

AMONG YOUNG TRUMPSTERS, stories abound of being unable to find dates, with prospective mates deciding a devotion to the president is a deal breaker.

So a Republican fundraiser has created Righter, a dating app for people with “conservative, Christian, and American values.” The rules: Users can’t hide their age, men must make the initial approach and pay for the first date, and liberals will be sued if they join.

There’s also a strict no Photoshopping edict that seems to target women. “Females make themselves look different, younger, thinner, better,” says founder Christy Lawton. “That’s not going to happen on our app.”

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

‘Rehab Addict’ star **NICOLE CURTIS** swears N. Minneapolis house is her last project in the city

Minnesota City man arrested after epic **17-HOUR FIGHT** with his landlord

Buzzfeed, U.S. Bank: Minneapolis has restaurants, **‘CULTURE’**

Minnesota State Fair unveils 2019’s first **GRANDSTAND MUSIC ACTS**

To fear or not fear Minneapolis’ **NORTH SIDE?** Readers respond to body armor story

BEASTS OF BOUNDARIES

How a map by Minnesota wolf researchers went viral

Wolf packs take their territory very seriously. That point is illustrated in incredible, colorful, squiggly detail via a new data map from Voyageurs Wolf Project.

Researchers at the project—a collaboration between the University of Minnesota and Voyageurs National Park—charted the locations of seven northern Minnesota wolf packs 68,000 times throughout the summer. The findings show how rigidly wolves stick to their own turf.

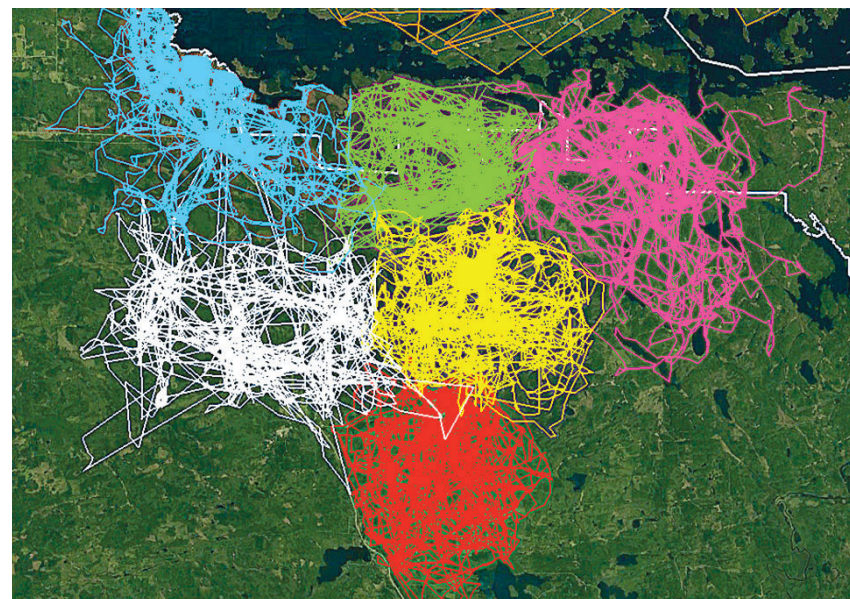
“The image basically speaks for itself—it shows how the woods are partitioned by wolves,” says Tom Gable, a Ph.D. candidate working on the project. “There’s something wolves have—it’s fascinating—where they know where

those boundaries are. It’s scent, right? You’re using just your nose. There are no geographical markers. That’s a really cool part of it.”

The map also helps researchers learn what, exactly, Voyageurs’ 30 to 40 wolves are up to in the summer. In the past, the forest canopy hid wolves from older detection methods like radios and planes, Gable explains. But data from GPS collars provide detailed accounts of pack movements.

That’s allowing researchers to better understand how wolves eat during warmer months. Researchers hiked nearly 5,000 miles to examine potential kill sites—places where the packs stopped for more than 20 minutes.

“We don’t know, on average, how many beavers or deer wolves kill in the sum-



VOYAGEURS WOLF PROJECT

GPS tracking data show how wolf packs in Voyageurs National Park stay strictly within their own turf.

mer, because people haven’t been able to quantify this,” Gable says.

The emerging science delights the team at VWP, while the map has attracted almost 50,000 Reddit views by dynam-

cally highlighting an old fact: Wolves are territorial beasts.

“It’s been kind of amazing, honestly,” Gable says. “It’s kind of gone viral.”

—JAY BOLLER



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Invading the Minneapolis Club

Just what goes on inside those majestic ivy-wreathed walls?



Mike Mullen

If you've spent much time downtown, you've seen the Minneapolis Club. You've eyed its spectacular, ivy-covered exterior. You've wondered who frequents it and what goes on in there.

Last week, the Business Journal asked power players in Twin Cities business where they like to lunch. The Minneapolis Club was among the favorites. But only a select few of us can back them up. You can't even see the menu on the club's website—advertised as “the best restaurant in town you can't get into”—without punching in a password. Its illustrious membership over the years includes Pillsburys, Daytons, and Hubert Humphrey. (Humphrey's wife became the club's first female member... in 1978.) The squash court is named for former Vikings co-owner Wheelock Whitney.

I used someone else's quarters to pay for a bus downtown, and met a lunch date who was relieved to learn her jeans didn't violate the dress code. The men in the dining room wore suits and ties, with the exception of a befrocked priest. Most were 50 or older, with the smell of money.

“I can't believe they let the socialists in,” my date whispered.

A Waygu beef burger almost melted in my hand, and the squash soup was so thick I could've turned the bowl upside down without spilling. Chef Hakan Lundberg, a dashing Swede with a history in high-end kitchens, admits with chagrin that fine

dining is dying. No one wants to pay \$250 for a nine-course, three-hour adventure anymore. They want a \$15 burger and craft beers, the cheaper the better.

His club diners are different. He cooks for serious regulars, some showing up four days a week, with their go-to meals and particulars about just how they want their steak or fish cooked. “I think they come in here because... they don't have to be elbow-to-elbow with someone who's out getting drunk,” he says.

“With me,” I say, pointing at my flannel-sheathed chest. Lundberg laughs and nods.

Daniel Olson, the club's charming concierge, leads a fascinating, era-spanning tour through the gloriously decorated five-story mansion. No wall is bare of Americana or British-themed pieces, and no lounge or hallway is without ornate woodwork. My date believes the reading room, replete with oft-stoked fireplace, would be a “great place to get killed with a lead pipe.”

Upstairs are great halls which can be rented out for the night. Who parties here? “U.S. Bank or General Mills, or some of the major law firms,” Daniel says.

Downstairs, he's told that “Mr. Fink is asking for someone to talk to.” One of the club's most talkative members has lost his lunch companion, but isn't done chatting. If we weren't mid-tour, Daniel would volunteer for the job himself.

Out for a quick smoke break that evening, a different staffer gives a warm goodbye to

a kitchen worker headed to his car. On her way back, the employee spots a member headed toward a locked door, and literally sprints across a driveway to swipe her in, then turns heel and races toward another member approaching another door. This is the kind of service provided.

At a champagne-and-snacks happy hour, members learn about bubbly, and drink even more of it. “Terroir,” we determine, is a fancy word for “dirt,” and claims that the tannins in red wine cause a headache are “mostly bullshit.”

When it's over, Steve—who looks like comic Nick Swardson if he spent two hours a day on the bench press—and Mike, a lawyer-cum-psychiatrist, invite my dinner date and I to join them for free scotch and more wine. (Mike has 10 bottles in stashed in a locker here.) Turns out the dining room's bar area, lethargic midday, comes alive at night.

Steve was once a special ed teacher. Now he does “wealth management” and has an ownership stake in a vineyard.

What happened? “I became a capitalist,” he says and shrugs.


Cell phone pictures reveal Steve's got a “gorgeous” wife—my date's words—a daughter, and a cute dog. Mike's about to turn 50 and his wife has a terminal illness. We bond over strong drink and black humor; Mike debates the merits of cannibalism.

These guys are great. Any duo whose version of introduction is opening a bottle

of scotch and fetching a nice bottle of red for two perfect strangers can't be all bad.

I'd come to the Minneapolis Club wondering how the well-off get on, these people whose lives I hate, resist, and somewhat reluctantly want. It turns out their lives are a lot like those of the people I already know. They're hungry. They're drinkers. They're anxious about their kids, the country, and the world itself. They want something to do. They want company.

Mr. Fink is looking for someone to talk to. Dave wants one more drink before returning to his family. Mike is losing a wife and invites funny young winos to his birthday. Try as I might, I can't hate on any of that. If I had a lot more money, would I join the Minneapolis Club? Maybe not, but I wouldn't blame anyone who did.

I invite Steve and Mike to join us at a dive bar—turns out they love those too. They in turn promise to have us back any time we like. We wobble out into the night a little happier than when we'd arrived, with plans to meet again. 

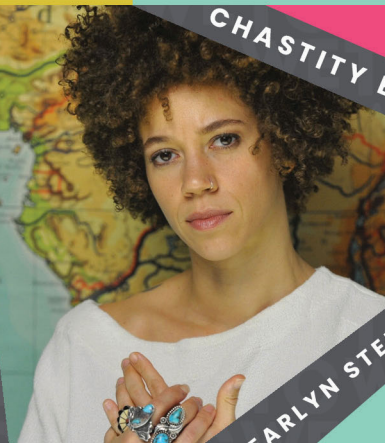
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7PM



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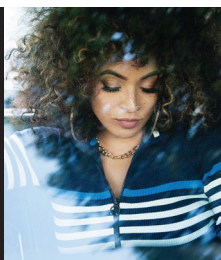
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7 & 9PM



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FEB 27
7PM





THE YEAR IN MUSIC

2018: A year of sad songs and self-discovery

If you waded into the glum muck of hit radio this year, you won't be surprised to learn that there was a number-one song called "Sad!" But you might be surprised to learn that there was only one number-one song called that.

Juice WRLD, NF, Post Malone—each of these put-upon rap groaners wept puddles of stagnant bongwater over a woman who'd smartened up and dropkicked his dreary ass on a dour hit he could have creditably dubbed "Sad!" But only XXXTentacion had the nerve to claim that title for his intriguing, manipulative, and reprehensible sniffle of a chart-topper. (Murdered in June at 20, he'll likely be remembered as some tangled-up combination of cultish antihero, brutal girlfriend-abuser, and stylistic innovator.)

There can be something liberating about a collective assertion of misery, especially when the pursuit of happiness feels less like a right than an obligation and your inability to smile is treated

as a moral shortcoming. And as much as the Drake-spawned sulkcape of modern pop-rap merely gussies up misogyny with self-pity, these hits did tap into an undefined cultural malaise, as even the lamest mass culture will do. Let's face it—we're some sad fuckers these days.

BY KEITH HARRIS

Plenty of songwriters with more brains and heart than those dopes I've mentioned sought to wriggle their way out of despair without belying its pleasures. Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus formed the cherished supergroup Boygenius, Robyn's *Honey* worked through layers of sorrow on the dance floor, and the queen of too-smart-to-be-happy, Mitski, deepened her emotional insight as she expanded her musical range on *Be the Cowboy*.

But much of what I needed to hear personally in 2018 went beyond that and demanded pleasure and acceptance from this miserable world. Cardi B's *Invasion of Privacy* burst with the



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energy of a rap fan who'd seized the spotlight, celebrating that induplicable moment when a lovable pop star discovers she's widely loved, brimming with the indomitable thrill of jacking every rap style that came her way and sounding like nobody but herself in each manifestation.

I got a more nuanced buzz from some of Cardi's less famous sisters. The Chicago rapper Noname, who bobbed and floated atop the seductive beatstream of *Room 25*, dropping incontrovertible wisdom like "globalization's scary and fuckin' is fantastic." The delightful day-glo Philly weirdo Tierra Whack, whose 15-minute, 15-song *Whack World* ended with an undeniable "I know that I am worth mo-o-o-ore." Leikeli47, a balaclava-wearing young Brooklynite who rapped about finding love in as hopeless a place as the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station on her album, *Acrylic*. And closer to home, Dessa, who once more surveyed heartbreak and other frustrations with a relentless scrutiny on *Chime*. Each of these artists plunged into existence and came out on the other side a fuller person.

Action is another antidote for melancholy, and down in the indie-punk trenches Parquet Courts' *Wide Awake!* and Superchunk's *What a Time to Be Alive* each rallied the troops for a war that won't end any time soon no matter how many blue waves crash on D.C. Meanwhile, Janelle Monáe finally lived up to the promise of her queer Afrofuturist ambitions on *Dirty Computer*, sexing up anti-dystopian funk for the struggles ahead.

Part of me wants to derail this essay right here and just start listing off all the unclassifiable pleasures music offered me this year. The theatrical indie-pop wit Stew, along with his group the Negro Problem,

released two soundtracks to musicals he'd staged, one about James Baldwin and one about African-American Christianity, and you probably haven't heard either. Onetime purveyor of electro-cool Tracey Thorn of Everything But the Girl shared a mature perspective over immature beats on *Record*. Old folks like Yo La Tengo put out great music. Even older folks like John Prine put out great music. Kacey Musgraves exhaled a gorgeous contact high of an album, *Golden Hour*; Mary Gauthier collaborated with returning soldiers on the remarkable *Rifles & Rosary Beads*. And I haven't even mentioned my favorite album of the year yet.

The Pistol Annies know from sad. On *Interstate Gospel*, their third and best album as a trio, Miranda Lambert, Ashley Monroe, and Angaleena Presley struggle with marriage and divorce and family, with the way bad decisions wind up puncturing your self-esteem while seemingly sensible decisions make you regret your lack of irresponsibility. Whenever sex, drugs, and alcohol stop numbing their pain, cracking a joke puts it into perspective. "I picked a good day for a recreational Percocet" is a lyric any pharmaceutically inclined mope-rap star could get behind, but none of 'em are bright enough to think up.

Since I started this essay hating on pop radio, let me end with a note of gratitude to Ariana Grande for her chipper number one, "Thank U, Next." One for the ages? Maybe not, but after a year of sadboy slogs, it was a relief to hear the consonant-averse star embrace the pop-psych cliché that every heartbreak teaches you something important about yourself. Yeah, yeah, I have a hard time believing that too. But if the alternative is to wind up like one of those droopy emo whiners I was complaining about earlier? Well, I'll take it on faith, Ari. **Q**

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BEST ALBUMS OF THE YEAR



National albums

1. Pistol Annies - *Interstate Gospel*
2. Noname - *Room 25*
3. Tracey Thorn - *Record*
4. Janelle Monáe - *Dirty Computer*
5. Stew & the Negro Problem - *Notes of a Native Song*
6. Cardi B - *Invasion of Privacy*
7. Parquet Courts - *Wide Awake!*
8. Tierra Whack - *Whack World*
9. Sophie - *Oil of Every Pearl's Un-Insides*
10. Superchunk - *What a Time to Be Alive*
11. Black Panther: *The Album*
12. Hop Along - *Bark Your Head Off, Dog*
13. Mary Gauthier - *Rifles & Rosary Beads*
14. No Age - *Snares Like a Haircut*
15. Pusha T - *Daytona*
16. Leikeli47 - *Acrylic*
17. The Internet - *Hive Mind*
18. Ezra Furman - *Transangelic Exodus*
19. Kali Uchis - *Isolation*
20. Speedy Ortiz - *Twerp Verse*
21. Becky Warren - *Undesirable*
22. Stew & the Negro Problem - *The Total Bent*
23. Mitski - *Be the Cowboy*
24. Kacey Musgraves - *Golden Hour*
25. CupcakKe - *Ephorize*
26. The Spook School - *Could It Be Different*
27. John Prine - *The Tree of Forgiveness*
28. Courtney Barnett - *Tell Me How You Really Feel*
29. Kids See Ghosts - *Kids See Ghosts*
30. Yo La Tengo - *There's a Riot Going On*

Local albums

1. Dessa - *Chime*
2. Prince - *Piano & a Microphone 1983*
3. Gully Boys - *Not So Brave*
4. Catbath - *Glitterbox*
5. Dizzy Fae - *Free Form*
6. Kitten Forever - *Semi-Permanent*
7. Astralblak - *Seeds*
8. Atmosphere - *Mi Vida Local*
9. Low - *Double Negative*
10. Four Fists - *6666*

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EMILY UTNE

What Happened?

A timeline of notable and sometimes nutty Minnesota music news for 2018 — **BY KEITH HARRIS**

THE CALENDAR tells me it's been less than 12 months since January 1, 2018, though it feels like at least 12 times that many. Here's what happened in the time since.

JANUARY

► The Twin Cities region prepares itself for the coming onslaught of **Super Bowl 52**. Out in Chanhassen, the City Council grants Paisley Park's request for permission to serve liquor during a special Super Bowl-related event. Prince fans gripe that it's not what the teetotaling Jehovah's Witness would have wanted; further gripes accumulate after halftime performer Justin Timberlake announces that he'll be holding a listening party at Prince's home.

► In another blow to live music on the West Bank, the **Viking Bar** closes. The joint, once one of the hotbeds of the Minneapolis folk scene, had just reopened in

May 2016 under new ownership, after a decade of dormancy.

► Local fellas **Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis** whip together an event called Super Bowl Live to showcase Minnesota music in a series of concerts held outdoors on the newly refurbished Nicollet Mall. Performers include Prince associates such as Sheila E., the Time, the Revolution, and the New Power Generation; rockers like Bob Mould, Soul Asylum, and the Jayhawks; and Idina Menzel, who is roasted by Minnesotans for suggesting on Twitter that 47 degrees is cold.

FEBRUARY

► The Super Bowl happens. **Justin Timberlake** does a weak-ass Prince tribute during an otherwise acceptable halftime performance. A whole bunch of famous people come to town, including Cardi B, who draws fire for "appearing" at pricey

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events rather than performing, and not including Travis Scott, who's criticized for not even appearing at a scheduled show at Myth.

► As expected, **McNally Smith College of Music**, which abruptly shut its doors just before Christmas the previous year, declares bankruptcy. The for-profit music school auctions off its building and equipment for about \$1 million later in the year—less than a sixth of what it owes to creditors, including employees and students.

► Local rap/R&B crew ZuluZuluu, winners of the 2016 Picked to Click poll, change their name to **Astralblak**, for reasons of cultural respect. Later in the year, they release a new album, *Seeds*.

► **Norm Rogers**, the early Jayhawks drummer who went on to play with Cows and worked as a bartender at Brit's Pub for years after that, dies at the age of 61.

► Two historic venues reopen. In Dinkytown, the **Varsity Theater**, under new ownership and hoping to put the dark Jason McLean years behind it, begins booking music again. And up in Duluth, the renovated **NorShor Theater** is back in business.

MARCH

► After operating for 18 years as a treasure trove of used media—video games, vinyl, CDs, DVDs, and the like—**Discland** in Bloomington closes up shop.

► Aspiring 19-year-old St. Paul rapper **BillyThaKid** (birth name Billy Robles) dies from gunshot wounds after a fight breaks out on a party bus in Inver Grove Heights.

APRIL

► **Bob Dylan**, who has advertised everything from women's undies to luxury cars, begins shilling his own brand of whiskey, Heaven's Door. (You know, like the song, but without the knocking.) Shortly afterward, he's sued by the whiskey manufacturer Heaven Hill for choosing too similar a name, which wouldn't be the first time Bob's been accused of plagiarism. Still, you'd think booze peddlers wouldn't want their brand name to remind people of death, right?

► **Cameron Heacock**, the frontman of Minneapolis hard-rock band American Head Charge, is arrested in California while driving a stolen van filled with 13 no-less-stolen guitars. Not recommended.

► Minnesota celebrates **Prince** on the second anniversary of his death with a series of events around town. We also learn that a Prince memoir will be published and that 35 of his albums will be reissued.

► After **Dessa** sings the national anthem at the Twins home opener, a bald eagle flips out and attacks Mariners pitcher James Paxton. (Neither man nor fowl is injured.) The rest of Dessa's year goes much better: She releases an excellent new album, *Chime*, and her equally fine essay collection, *My Own Devices*.

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PRESS PHOTO

MAY

► Minnesota state representative **Ilhan Omar** appears in the video for Maroon 5's "Girls Like You." In November, she's elected to Congress from Minnesota's 5th district. Coincidence? (Yes.)

► Another Memorial Day weekend means another successful **Soundset**. The intense heat doesn't discourage rap fans of all (but mostly young) ages from packing together at the fairgrounds to see the likes of Logic, Erykah Badu, a reunited Wu-Tang Clan, and Migos, whose set is cut short after they make a tardy appearance.

JUNE

► As **Har Mar Superstar** launches a series of well-attended Sam Cooke tribute shows, local producer **Afrokeys** calls the white singer out for cultural appropriation. Happily (and unusually for this kind of internet spat), the confrontation leads to a productive conversation, and Har Mar pledges to donate a portion of the proceeds to African-American community organizations.

► What is it with Twin Cities musicians and name changes? Caroline Smith becomes the latest sorta-local (she's based in L.A. these days) to get in on the trend as she recasts herself as **Your Smith**. Later in the year, she releases *Bad Habit*, an EP, under the new name.

► Nineteen-year-old **Kaitlyn Strom** from Litchfield, Minnesota, becomes an instant hero to millions (or at least about three of us in the City Pages office) when she gets her head stuck in a truck tailpipe

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RICHARD MCCALLEY

at the Winstock country music festival. “Yeah I’m the tail pipe girl whachu know about it?” she announces on social media.

JULY

► **Hymie’s Vintage Records** on East Lake Street goes up for sale. Owners Laura and Dave Hoenack, who bought the beloved 30-year-old Minneapolis record shop biz from Jim “Hymie” Peterson 10 years earlier, explain that they want to spend more time with their kids.

► Universal Music demands that YouTube take down a video that the Star Tribune’s Aaron Lavinsky shot of thousands singing “Purple Rain” in the street outside of First Avenue on the night of Prince’s death. For once, people getting mad about something on the internet matters: Universal soon backtracks and the video returns.

► **Thomas Abban**, the winner of the 2017 City Pages Picked to Click poll, signs to RCA Records, which reissues his album *A Sheik’s Legacy*. We can’t promise other musicians that winning P2C will get them signed to major labels, but, hey, apparently it doesn’t hurt.

► Runway Studios in Edina, the building that once housed Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis’ **Flyte Tyme Studios**, where Janet Jackson and other superstars recorded, is sold to a housing developer.

AUGUST

► The **State Fair** begins. City Pages sends Ryan Warner to review every single Grandstand show—yes, even the Beach Boys—and either he survived the ordeal or his next of kin were able to cash the check we sent him.

► In a bold move that shocks the radio industry, Cities 97 rebrands... as **Cities 97.1**. We’re still reeling.

► Catalyst Music, the nonprofit that operates the all-ages club the **Garage** in Burnsville, announces that it will be opening a second, more centrally located all-ages venue at the Old Swedish Bank Building in St. Paul.

SEPTEMBER

► **Prince** receives an honorary degree from the University of Minnesota. Though he didn’t live to receive the honor, he’d been told it was in the works before his death. His response? “Cool.”

► The **Parkway Theater** on Chicago Avenue reopens, showing movies and booking comedy in addition to serving as a much needed music venue in south Minneapolis.

► **First Avenue** buys another club just up the road, the not exactly beloved **Fine Line Music Cafe**, which City Pages had recently ranked as the worst venue in the Twin Cities. Did First Avenue buy any other properties in 2018? You’ll just have to keep reading to find out.

OCTOBER

► Well, what do you know? In the second of two major real estate purchases this year, First Avenue buys the **Fitzgerald Theater** in St. Paul from MPR. It seems these folks are in it for the long haul.

► **Gully Boys** officially become the best new music act in Minnesota as they win the 2018 edition of Picked to Click, City Pages’ annual poll of local music know-it-alls.

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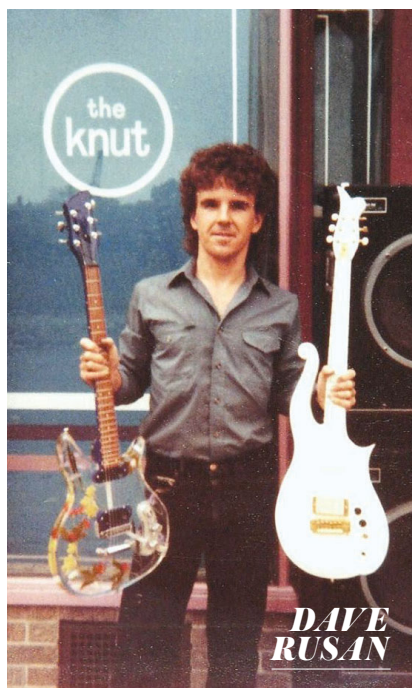
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COURTESY PHOTO

► **The Hold Steady** return to Minnesota to play SurlyFest, their first Twin Cities show since opening for the Replacements in 2014. They also play their first ever shows at the 7th St. Entry—an all-ages matinee and an evening drunk show.

► **Viva Beck**, beloved for the quirky cable-access TV show she put together with her husband, Jerry, for more than 20 years, *Viva and Jerry's Country Music Videos*, dies at the age of 79.

► The local music community rallies around **Aaron "Hix" Lee** of Red Daughters after a mugger shoots and wounds him in northeast Minneapolis.


NOVEMBER

► The long-running **Punk Rock Bowling** Monday series at Memory Lanes announces that its final show will be in December. Why? "The bowling alley figured out that they could make way more money selling bowling than live music," says booker Tom Burt.

► After more than six years as morning show host at Cities 97.1, **Keri Noble** announces that she's leaving radio to focus on her music.

DECEMBER

► Dave Rusan, the designer of **Prince's Cloud guitar**, tries to fend off an attempt by attorneys for the Prince estate to challenge his trademark on the iconic instrument. "It's my legacy," Rusan protests.

► And finally, looking ahead to 2019, the Minnesota State Fair announces its first two **Grandstand** bookings: Hootie and the Blowfish and "Weird" Al Yankovic. 



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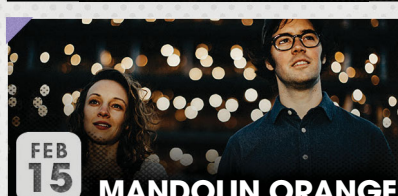
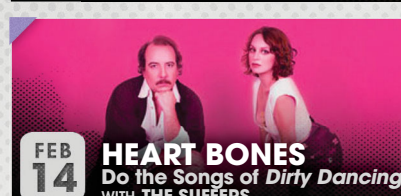
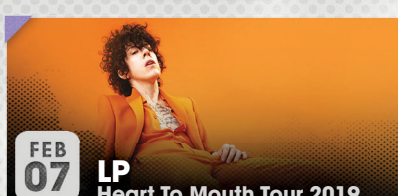
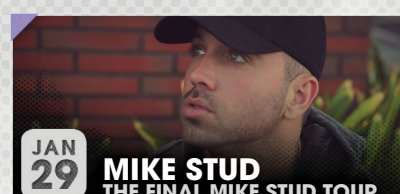
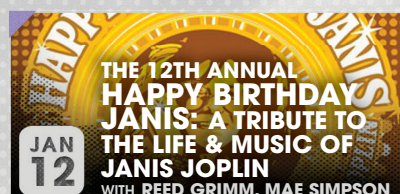
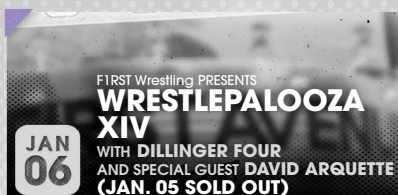
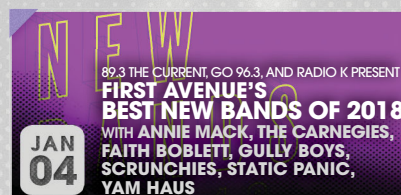
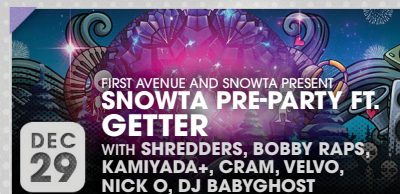
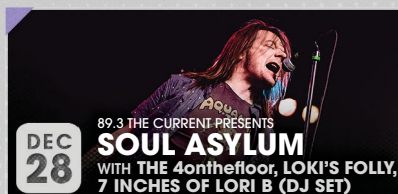
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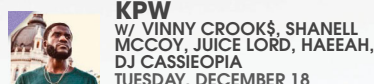
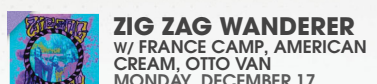
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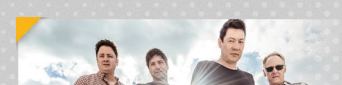
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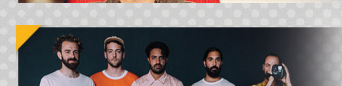
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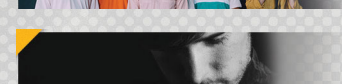
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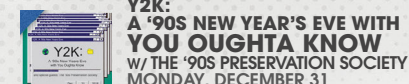


MAR 04 JAMES BLAKE

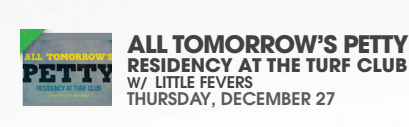
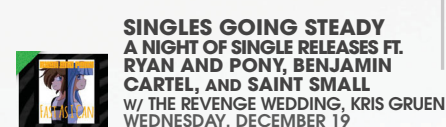
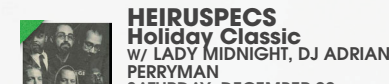
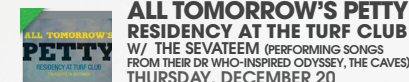
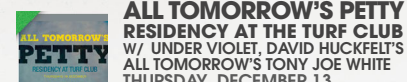


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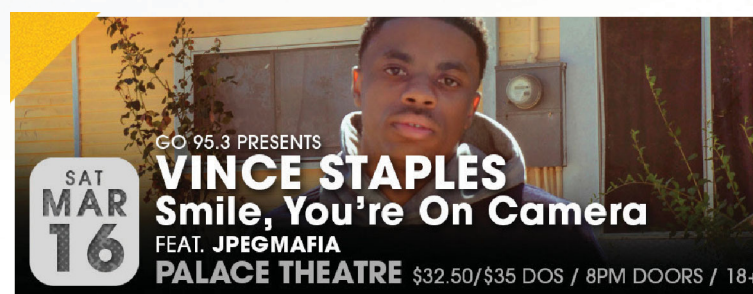
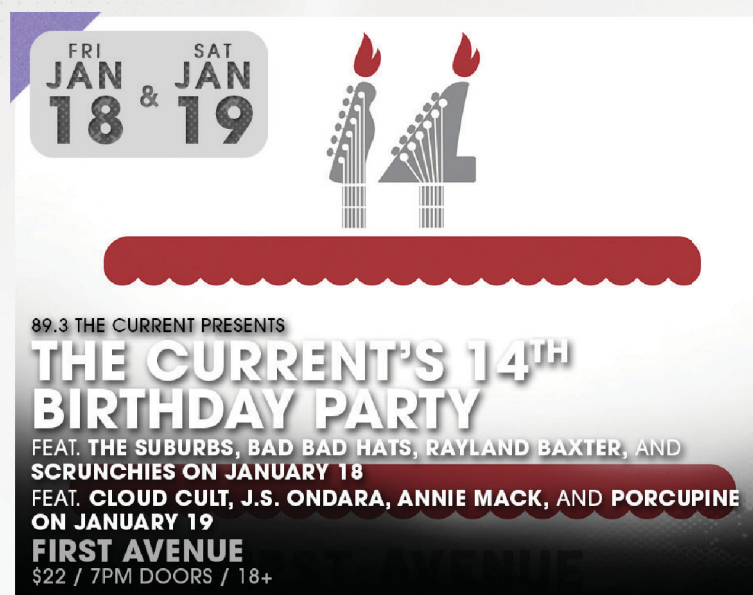
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For half a century, Red Lobster has reigned over the nation's premier dining category—Chain Joints on the Frontage Road by the Mall—towering above such foes as Outback, Olive Garden, and Applebee's. But it's been years since you've graced its door, hasn't it?

You, after all, are an influencer, a tastemaker, an early adopter. Your Instagram page is curated with photos of craft butters, upcycled Filipino longganisa, and lots of stuff involving bowls. Your legions of followers would be legion no more were you to show favor to corporate food served next to a freeway in Roseville.

Yet in the secret recesses of your heart, you long for comfort—chow born for simple pleasure, its intentions no more than a full belly.

So leave your phone behind. Tell friends you're visiting an aunt with leprosy. Wear a disguise if you must. We're going to Red Lobster, America's home to comfort seafood.

You will enter a womb of dark woods, framed nautical flags, and picturesque lighthouse scenes rivaling anything you'd find in a Holiday Inn Express. It's totally authentic. Or as authentic as one can get

when buying in bulk from a restaurant-fixtures distributor in Harrisburg.

You will be seated by an old-school waitress. She is fleet of foot, polite, but not predisposed to light chatter. Maybe because you're wearing a ski mask.

The menu is the approximate size of a high school football playbook. All the basic wines, brewskies, and "signature cocktails" are represented, whimsically abetted by Malibu Hurricanes and Caramel Appletinis.

But it's a long drive back to Uptown. You order a Coke. Its subtle notes of high fructose corn syrup and phosphoric acid ring effervescent and crisp, an explosion of 1,000 senses.

You pair this with a Caesar salad, featuring iceberg lettuce and shaved cheese of indeterminate lineage. There is no romaine on this day, for rumors suggest it may be trying to kill you. Besides, you want the full experience. And there's nothing more seafaring than lettuce named after something that can take down a cruise ship. The salad is delicious.

You will also notice that a basket of famed Cheddar Bay Biscuits has arrived, gratis. These gems—so sumptuous they were once used as official currency in the

pirate era—are a soft, buttery concoction of garlic and Old Bay-style seasoning. Their inventor is considered a deity in certain megachurches of the rural South.

But dive deeper into the playbook, and you realize the menu is loaded with healthier, pricier items like 1-1/4 pound live steamed lobster (\$33.79) and a rock lobster and steak (\$37.49). "Today's catch," hustled straight to the kitchen from the wharves of Roseville, includes Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout.

You wisely take a pass.

Pro tip #1: The smart diner always orders fried food, since only the best chefs are assigned to match wits with a tub of gurgling-hot oil.

Pro tip #2: The quality of a dish can be discerned by the stoutness of its name. That's why anything called "lumberjack" or "hungry man" makes for a superior breakfast. But since we're in a nautical setting, you'll choose the "Admiral's Feast" (\$20.49, \$15 on Tuesdays).

As you may be aware, the admiral is the second-most figure of import on a ship—after the guy who always seems to have weed even when you're 274 miles out to sea. "Feast" derives from an ancient Turkish phrase meaning, "the upside of sacking an Ottoman village."

It will arrive at your table in less than 10 minutes. You suspect Red Lobster is entirely staffed by people who moonlight as ambulance drivers.

You take a moment behold the largesse: Mounds of fried ocean creatures brim from

a giant plate, arrayed in the monochromatic beige recommended by school nutritionists from 1950s Alabama, back when science was still respected. The only coloring is a side order of broccoli, a nod to pacifying insurrectionists in your gastrointestinal unit, who may soon plot revolt.

One bite of shrimp will convert you to a willing seaman in the Red Lobster Navy. It's lightly breaded, meaty, perhaps large enough to serve as a racquetball paddle, exquisitely proportioned with seasoning and grease.

Then come the filets of flounder, the sea's most underrated fish. Only the truly lovable can earn a name like flounder. He's the guy other fish call when they need an emergency babysitter, or when their car won't start at 3 a.m. He's been a groomsman at so many weddings he owns his own tux. He's been repeatedly offered endorsement deals by Mrs. Paul's and Long John Silver. But he always declines, saying he just isn't that into money.

And he's fully committed to being your supper—tender, moist, a bonanza of goodness in every bite.

By the time you reach the scallops, your stomach is in mid-balloon. You consider offsetting the bill by leasing yourself to the Macy's Parade. Fortunately, scallops are like a miniature crustacean hockey puck. You soldier on, your palate aroused by their luscious squishiness.

But you can eat no more. Nature and arterial safety considerations require a ceasefire. And just in time. All that's left is the broccoli—Broccoli? WTF were you thinking?—and clam strips, the one thing Red Lobster does not do well.

They're overcooked, rubbery, and taste like fried tendons, as if fished from the garbage behind an orthopedic surgeon's clinic. If you happen to be an international spy, they're sturdy enough to stab out someone's eye should you ever be captured by Iranian intelligence. Yet your vocation does not require stabbing, does it? You find them unworthy of your to-go container.

Not that it matters. You have now packed an estimated 38 pounds of fish and grease down your gullet. You feel as if you won't be hungry again until April. You're satiated in the way of empresses of old. For one brief moment, you are seated on your rightful culinary throne, ruling over a kingdom free from the obligations of fashion and status.

You are happy... though with one minor consideration: Will you still fit behind the steering wheel of your car? **GF**

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Saturday, December 22nd

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Friday, December 28th

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A LIST

FRIDAY Holiday horror at Off-Leash p. 29

SATURDAY Le Cirque Rouge's penultimate show p. 30

TUESDAY Party with the Hamm's Bear p. 31

WEDNESDAY 12.12

HOLIDAY

THE 12TH ANNUAL STAR WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL TOYS FOR TOTS SPECTACULAR

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL

A long time ago in a galaxy far far away, the *Star Wars* franchise made its first major misstep. The year was 1978, an era filled with Christmas specials, variety shows, and Bea Arthur. The *Star Wars Holiday Special* takes all three of these things and mashes them into one giant bong hit of weirdness. It starts with Chewbacca's family, hounded by the Empire and anxious for his return home for Life Day. While the first five minutes or so are in Wookiee, the program soon switches to English, with random scenes featuring celebs of yesteryear. There's Art Carney as a human trader with a heart of gold; Jefferson Starship, singing into the most phallic microphone ever; and the aforementioned Arthur as a bartender in space. OG cast members show up, too, including a super-annoyed Harrison Ford, an (admittedly) out of it Carrie Fisher, and a wide-eyed Mark Hamill. Add in a cartoon segment and some B-roll Darth Vader footage, and you have something that 40 years later still amazes people with its magical shittiness. See it at BLB this Wednesday. Screenings are at 4, 7, and 10 p.m. Admission is free with a new Toys for Tots donation. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY

DWIGHT SLADE

ACME COMEDY CO.

"The popularity of standup comedy in the past few years has been mercuric," says comedian Dwight Slade. "This is the first generation that has grown up with George Carlin and Richard Pryor as acknowledged icons. People have grown up with it and they want new and unique perspectives from it." That means new challenges for comics. "Your window to make an impression is small," says Slade. This past year, Slade did a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 ►

Local artists come together to imagine a world post-patriarchy at CO Exhibitions.



CARLA RODRIGUEZ AND LINDSEY CHEREK

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DODGE & FUSKI  DEC 20	CHAMPAGNE DRIP  DEC 22 W/ SUMTHIN SUMTHIN	LEKTRIQUE  DEC 27	NIGHT BASS  DEC 28 W/ AC SLATER & MANY MORE
ARIUS  DEC 29	NYE 2019  DEC 31 FT. TROYBOI & MORE!	OOKAY  JAN 11 W/ BONNIE X CLYDE	AMIGO THE DEVIL  JAN 16
TWO FRIENDS  JAN 18	ANTISERUM  JAN 19 & DEFINITIVE	DOWNLINK  JAN 25 W/ AL ROSS	TINY MEAT GANG  JAN 25 SOLD OUT!
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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY ►

Dry Bar comedy special, and a clip from it received two million views. “Two million people saw my standup, and that opened a little window,” he adds. He later found out that his clips on Sirius/XM in turn have spiked. Onstage, Slade tries to mix his well-known material with some newer observations. He also tells audiences about how he’s backing the president. “It’s done tongue-in-cheek, and it’s all the wrong reasons to support him.” 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

COMEDY

STEVE SIMEONE

RICK BRONSON’S HOUSE OF COMEDY

“I want it all to be clean and family-friendly so kids can listen to it, and grandparents can listen to it,” Steve Simeone says of his comedy. “I want it to just be a celebration of life. The world is so crazy right now; it doesn’t take a genius to tell you what’s wrong and to focus on that. We’re all experiencing this together.” It took a while for Simeone to come to this point of view. “The most important things in life we take for granted,” he says, “like watching a ballgame with your dad.” This past February, he had a chance to watch, with his father, his hometown Eagles win the Super Bowl. “I flew down to Florida to watch it with him. That’s better than a Rolls Royce or a mansion.” He’s also making transitions in his day-to-day life. “I was in Texas recently,” he explains, “and I woke up, grabbed a cup of coffee, and out of habit I said ‘good morning’ to someone and they said it back to me.” He was stunned. “So, I just walked around with my coffee and said ‘good morning’ to everyone because that doesn’t happen in L.A.” 16+. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

HOLIDAY

SHOP LOCAL HAPPENINGS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This week’s opportunities to shop local are as varied as your gift list. Things kick off Wednesday at Cookie House Press, Coffee House Press’ (79 13th Ave. NE, Ste 110, Minneapolis) annual book party. This book sale runs from 5 to 8 p.m., and includes DJ tunes, paper snowflake crafts, sweets, and cookie recipes to match new book releases. Not



STEVEN LANG

Your Average Holiday Party at WeWork (1350 Lagoon Ave., Minneapolis) is an office party for those who don’t work from an office (though everyone is welcome). Shop locally made goods from a market that includes Moth Oddities, Cherry Moon Press, and Larissa Loden Jewelry. Make s’mores with friends, do some work at the gift-wrapping station, and enjoy a drink. The event runs from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday. The kooky-cool cooperative A Conspiracy of Strange Girls is teaming up with Artspace Jackson Flats (901 18 1/2 Ave. NE, Minneapolis) for A Winter’s Night Market on Saturday, from 4 to 9 p.m. Here you’ll find leatherwork, paintings, jewelry, and more from over 30 independent designers. There will also be live music and drinks. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FRIDAY 12.14

ART

DETOURS: MADE HERE

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Since 2013, Made Here has added a bit of whimsy to downtown Minneapolis, taking empty storefronts, windows, alleys, and billboards and filling them with art. Past efforts have included pieces that invited people to shake up the status quo, to notice areas often overlooked, and to build new connections in the neighborhood. Over the past five years, the project has seen over 300 window displays and 11 installations. This week, Made Here returns with “Detours,” which will be the final iteration of the project. There will be photography; pieces utilizing neon, steel, concrete, and paint; and an installation made from

plastic bottles, paper, and traffic lights. See it first at the launch party, which will include a retrospective exhibit, a virtual reality lounge, craft cocktails, DJ tunes, and performances from Hamdi Shahid, Lt. Sunny, and Rana May. See live painting from local artist Reggie LeFlore, and play with an interactive light display by Brian Scalak. The party runs from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, December 14. Free. Hennepin Theatre Trust, 900 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-455-9500. **Through March 24 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

BARHOPPING

SISYPHUS SPEAKEASY

SISYPHUS BREWING

Generally, taprooms serve beer straight up in a pint glass. This Friday, Sisyphus is mixing things up—literally. As usual, they’ll have a wide variety of beers on tap, but the comedy club, housed in a room separate from the main pub, will become a speakeasy. Here they’ll serve five custom, one-night-only beertails (aka cocktails made with beer). Sisyphus threw a similar party a year ago. Now it returns with “beertender” Andy Robertson and his secret concoctions. Word on the street is that the ingredients will include botanicals, fruit, tonics, and a special barrel-aged stout. Once inside, be sure to whisper the secret password: New England clam chowder. 6 to 11:30 p.m. Free. 712 Ontario Ave. W., Minneapolis; 612-321-8324. —LOREN GREEN

THEATER

E/D: ANIMUS

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Emily Michaels King and Debra Berger, two theater artists behind the



MEGAN ENGESETH

THURSDAY

THEATER

BLACKBIRD

GRAIN BELT WAREHOUSE

Count on Sara Marsh’s hard-hitting Dark and Stormy Productions to deliver December fare that’s anything but Christmas-y. While *Blackbird* may be a break from reindeer and snowmen, it’s hardly what you’d call escapist entertainment. David Harrower’s 2005 play was partly inspired by the terrible true story of Toby Studebaker, the former Marine who met an 11-year-old girl on Neopets and took her to Paris for sex. The play’s been produced around the world, including a Broadway show with Michelle Williams, and was adapted into the Rooney Mara film *Una*. In the Dark and Stormy production, Marsh plays Una, a young woman who approaches her abuser 15 years after an incident resembling the Studebaker crime. Luverne Seifert, an actor who can become an intimidating onstage force, is the middle-aged Ray. In the close confines of Dark and Stormy’s Grain Belt studio space, expect a gripping real-time encounter that you won’t soon forget... and that might just leave you feeling like a nice Hallmark movie wouldn’t be so bad after all. For tickets, visit www.darkstormy.org. 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, plus Monday, December 17 (no show December 19). \$15-\$39. 77 13th Ave. NE., Minneapolis; 612-401-4506. **Through January 5 —JAY GABLER**

collaborative E/D, find inspiration in Ingmar Bergman’s 1966 psychological film *Persona* for their latest creation. Using performance, multimedia projection, and live video by Amber Johnson of DangerVision Productions, *Animus* explores notions of personal identity, including how our digital

Cabooze

12/16

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A-LIST



V. PAUL VIRTUCIO

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

and social-media saturated world muddies the water about what is real and what's not. Like the original film, the story follows two women—one who speaks, one who doesn't—whose identities get jumbled together. E/D takes the juiciest bits of Bergman's perplexing masterpiece and brings it into the 21st century. The show is part of the Ingmar Bergman Jubilee, marking 100 years since the birth of the famous filmmaker. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, plus Monday, December 17; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$12–\$24. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. **Through December 22 —SHEILA REGAN**

THEATER

DREAD THE HALLS: A GATHERING OF HOLIDAY HORROR

OFF-LEASH ART BOX

Conceived as a multidisciplinary anthology of fright, Dread the Halls unites local artists intent on conjuring an array of nightmares. In addition to an unsettling dance/spoken-word piece co-developed by Joe Bozic and Erin Sheppard, audiences can anticipate an exploration of Aleister Crowley, a notoriously enigmatic figure, performed by Tim Uren of Ghoulis Delights. Another ominous highlight of the evening, developed under an air of mystery by Oncoming Productions and Rogue Gallery Arts, involves the sinister invocation of distressed holiday spirits. The Champagne Drops, the duo of Emily Dussault and Leslie Vincent, lend their gorgeous harmonies to spectral

holiday tunes for the production. Dread the Halls is likely to leave audiences wondering whether it's Santa Claus—or something far more sinister—crawling down the chimney Christmas night. Find tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com. 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday. \$12. 4200 E. 54th St., Minneapolis.

Through Sunday —BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 12.15

BURLESQUE

LE CIRQUE ROUGE CABARET & BURLESQUE'S FINAL SHOWS

ASTER CAFE, AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

Fifteen years ago, Le Cirque Rouge brought burlesque back to the Twin Cities after a 50-year hiatus of the old-school art. Over the years, the troupe has fostered many new artists, showcased Minnesota talents, and turned bars into bawdy stages of expression. After a decade and a half, the group is hanging up its pasties. Some ladies and gents will be heading off to other groups, while others will reform next year as Catastrophe Cabaret. This December, they'll give two final performances, both holiday-themed. There will be laughter, there will be tears, and there will probably be some butt cheeks. Come toast to the troupe with a pint or some bubbly. 7 p.m. Saturday, December 15, at Aster Cafe (125 SE Main St., Minneapolis; 612-379-3138) and Saturday, December 22, at Amsterdam Bar & Hall (6 W. Sixth St., St. Paul; 612-285-3112). \$15; \$50–\$100 VIP at Amsterdam. **Also December 22 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

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TUESDAY

THEATER

LES MISERABLES

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Despite its massive scale, *Les Mis* is powered by an intimate understanding of human nature. It's this humanity that brings to life to Victor Hugo's novel, wherein an impoverished man named Jean Valjean, desperate to feed his sister's starving child, steals a loaf of bread and spends the next 19 years in prison as a consequence. Forever marked as a felon, Valjean breaks his parole and goes on a lifelong search for redemption, a goal complicated by the tenacity of his pursuer, an obsessive police inspector named Javert. Though set in 19th-century France, the story remains distressingly resonant, particularly in a country grappling with the highest incarceration rate in the modern world. Delivered with soaring musical numbers ("I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "One More Day"), this revitalized production of the Broadway masterwork represents a breathtaking example of how audacious stagings can actually serve to amplify empathy, bringing audiences to collectively cheer for the courage to be compassionate. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus December 18; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays December 22-29; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sundays December 23-30. \$39-\$199. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007.

Through December 30 —BRAD RICHASON



MATTHEW MURPHY

ART/GALLERY

POST-PATRIARCHAL FEMINISM: VISIONS OF OPTIMISM AND ILLUSION

CO EXHIBITIONS

Twelve badass feminists navigate a post-patriarchal future in this new show at CO Exhibitions, curated by Katie Skujina. The exhibit features artists working in a variety of mediums as they dream about what tomorrow might look like if sexism and misogyny were things of the past. Chicago-based print artists Liz Born and Tara Zanzig will be part of the show, as will Nicole Marroquin, an associate professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Northern California's Nicomi Nix Turner will offer botanically influenced drawings. Plenty of local folks will be part of the show, too, including Jennifer Davis, Shelly Mosman, Meghan Lionel Murphy, and Maria Cristina Tavera. Come explore their versions of a feminist utopia. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, December 15, featuring music by DJs Babyghost and Rowsheen and refreshments from Modist Brewery. Free. 1101 Stinson Blvd. NE, Minneapolis; 612-379-4151.

Through January 19 —SHEILA REGAN

TUESDAY 12.18

BARHOPPING

MEET THE HAMM'S BEAR

SKINNER'S PUB

Sixty-some years ago, the Hamm's Bear peddled beer in an era when it was

okay to use cartoons to sell adults-only items. Though the bear is now semi-retired, he still comes out for special occasions to bestow cheap beer, like a Santa for furies and drinkers. This Tuesday, some dude will put on the Hamm's Bear costume and show up at Skinner's. During the happy hour, folks will be invited to pose with him for pictures, score freebies, and toast the brew with canned Hamm's that costs only a buck. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. 919 Randolph Ave., St. Paul; 651-228-1947. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

FESTIVUS HOLIDAY GATHERING

TOWN HALL BREWERY

While there are many heartwarming, life-affirming holidays this season, perhaps none are as cathartic as Festivus, a totally made up non-denominational holiday that has become a real thing. Its origin dates back to the '90s, with Frank Costanza hosting the event on a dark winter night on a very special episode of *Seinfeld*. Honor the holiday this Tuesday at Town Hall, where folks will gather 'round the traditional aluminum pole to vent. Air your grievances to the crowd for \$1; money collected this evening will benefit Fairview Riverside Children's Hospital. There will also be complimentary mulled wine and spiked hot cider, an outdoor bonfire, and a prize wheel. 5 to 10 p.m. Free. 1430 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-339-8696. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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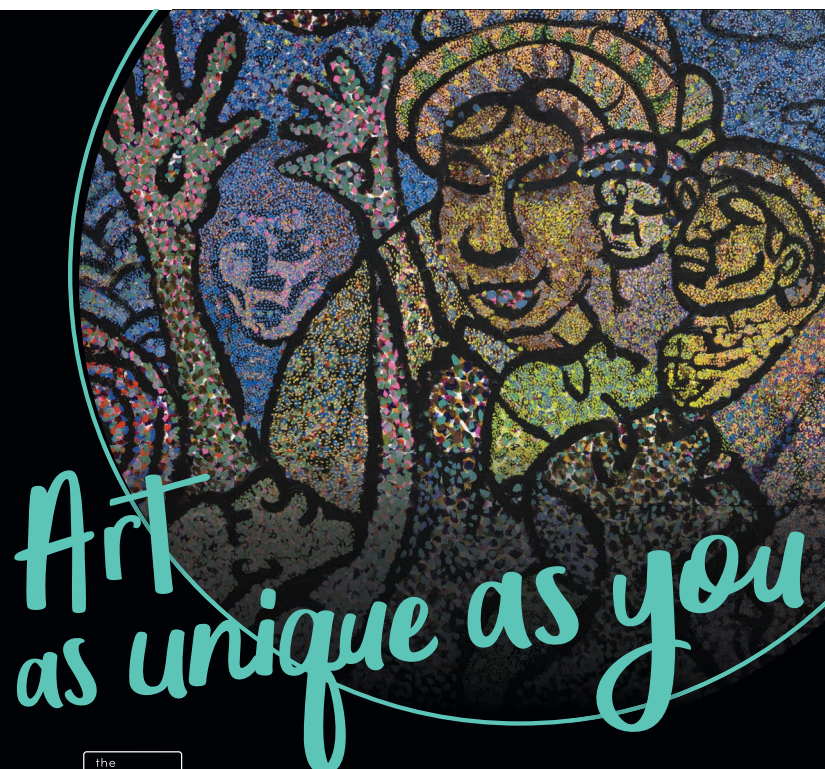
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FILM

WEBBED FEAT

The newest *Spider-Man* might be the best superhero movie of 2018



SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

BY TONY LIBERA

You might think Spider-Man movies have been done to death—but you’ve never seen the wall crawler quite like this.

Into the Spider-Verse takes place in an alternate reality, so things feel a bit unfamiliar from the get-go. There are plenty of subtle differences, but for us, the standout deviation from a typical Spidey flick is that Peter Parker (Chris Pine), while destroying a supercollider that creates holes to other dimensions, gets murdered by the Kingpin (Liev Schreiber). This opens the door for a new hero, another radioactive spider-bite victim named Miles Morales (Shameik Moore). But Miles is just a kid, and with this universe’s Spider-Man gone, he feels helpless and alone.

Enter the paunchy and downtrodden Peter B. Parker (Jake Johnson), a Spider-Man pulled through the void from yet another universe. Miles thinks he can learn the ropes from the superhero; however, life hasn’t been good to our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, and

he’s reluctant to take Miles under his wing. And yet with Kingpin looking to restart the supercollider (and possibly create a multiverse-shattering black hole in the process), this depressed schlub of a hero must team up with Miles to destroy the machine.

On paper this might all sound a bit convoluted—but in execution, *Into the Spider-Verse* is damn near flawless. More Spider-Men (and women and a pig) enter the picture, and with each addition, the movie gets better. You have to give credit to Brian Michael Bendis, Sara Pichelli, and the other Marvel mainstays who laid the foundation for this story in print. However, the success of *Into the Spider-Verse* owes largely to the behind-the-scenes work of *21 Jump Street* and *The Lego Movie* masterminds Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who once again leverage their trademark wit and humor to create a special moviegoing experience.

It’s also worth acknowledging the whopping 142 animators it took to bring this movie to life. Descriptions like “dazzling” and “eye-popping” get thrown around a lot in movie reviews, but *Into*

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

directed by Peter Ramsey, Robert Persichetti Jr., Rodney Rothman
area theaters, starts Friday

the Spider-Verse truly fits the bill. Stylistically, it’s a masterpiece; one cannot even compare the look and feel of the animation with anything else. Its cues are pulled from comics, pop art, cartoons, you name it, smashed together to form a movie that feels like a comic book come to life in a way that no Marvel movie, or really any movie, has done before. Novel frame rates, Lichtenstein-y Ben-Day dot highlights, odd use of selective focus—the attention to detail is striking here. And as the film builds to a maximal psychedelic visual climax, we’re as invested in the visuals as much as the story.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse is easily the most fun and inventive animated movie of 2018. And amazingly, in a year that featured the powerful *Black Panther*, a shocking *Avengers: Infinity War*, and the surprise delight of *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, it might also be the best superhero movie of the year. **A**

POWER PLAYS

CAE presents two works ruled by gender disparity



LOU BEDOR III

BY JAY GABLER

Classical Actors Ensemble is presenting a pair of 17th-century plays, in repertory at Gremlin Theatre, that demonstrate the persistent problems of patriarchy... including the problem of having women's stories told by male playwrights.

William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* and Thomas Middleton's *Women Beware Women* both pivot on more-or-less ordinary women who spark the sexual interest of powerful men. Both plays dramatize the injustice of women's bodies being made men's pawns, a theme that's underscored by directors Diane Mountford and Joseph Papke, respectively.

Measure is the drier of the two, but with material like this you're not really looking for razzle-dazzle. What you are looking for is powerful performances, and Mountford has those—particularly from Madeline Wall. She plays Isabella, a novice who sets out to beg for the life of her brother Claudio (Jacob Hooper), condemned because his fiancée (Samantha Fairchild) is pregnant before the couple have been officially married.

Lord Angelo (Daniel Kristian Vopava) is too righteous to overlook the crime of passion, but not too righteous to commit his own. If Isabella will lay with him, he says, her brother may be saved. In a confrontation with stomach-turning resonance, Angelo dismisses Isabella's threat to expose his coercion: If he denies it, no one will believe her. "Say what you can," he tells the devastated woman, "my false o'erweighs your true."

In the end, Shakespeare achieves a sort of happy ending, albeit one this production

CLASSIC ACTORS ENSEMBLE

Gremlin Theatre
550 Vandalia St., Minneapolis
Though December 23; 651-321-4024

complicates in a defiant twist playing on an ambiguity in the script. In *Women*, Middleton walks a darker, almost chaotic path. While Papke's darkly comic production makes for more accessible fare, it can't overcome the limitations of a busy script with a title that accurately reflects the playwright's misplaced attention.

True enough, as played by Samantha V. Papke, Livia is certainly a woman to be wary of. She helps the lustful Duke of Florence (Tyler Stamm) lure the newlywed Bianca (Eva Gemlo) to his chambers, knowing full well the duke means to force Bianca into adultery. Gemlo is gripping, spiraling through an increasingly desperate range of emotions as the duke calmly informs her that he's not above the use of force.

A second plot doesn't connect as powerfully, in part because of a miscast Joe Wiener opposite the superbly poised Fairchild as his niece, a young woman who tolerates engagement to an obnoxious fop only because it obscures a secret affair with her uncle.

The play is rarely produced, notes the director in a program note, "likely due to its rather outlandish finale." What's more deeply problematic, though, is the play's picture of a moral universe where vice given rein ultimately engulfs the players indiscriminately. A more pointed focus seems in order. In a play where one man rapes to bed, are women really the ones who need a warning label? **C**

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STREET *Style*

COZY & BRIGHT Unique Markets Holiday Pop Up at the Machine Shop. **BY AMY GEE**



SARAH CHRISTIAN

27, DIGITAL ANALYST

What are you wearing?

Zara coat, Mango pants and earrings, shirt from Target, Steve Madden shoes, necklace from Urban Outfitters.

Describe your style:

Classic layered with trendy.

Best places to shop for gifts:

I like markets like this and any sort of local get-together.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My Irish sheep wool sweater that's a men's size large. It's very warm.



REGINALDO REYES

47, DESIGNER

What are you wearing?

Vintage Nikes and leather jacket, Digby & Iona ring. Most of the rest is from Pharmacie.

Describe your style:

Eclectic and classic vintage. I'm a prep school boy at heart.

Best places to shop for gifts:

These markets. Anything local and unique. MCAD art sale.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

A linen blue worker's jacket that I wear every day in the summer.



Y.P. CHUANG

31, WEB DESIGNER

What are you wearing?

Madewell dress, Ann Taylor top, J.Hannah ring, vintage necklace, Machete earrings, Frye shoes.

Describe your style:

Comfortable, functional, chic.

Best places to shop for gifts:

Madewell. I just love their store because they have a great selection.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

Denim jeans.

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SHEILA E.

FIRST AVENUE, WEDNESDAY 12.12

Singer and percussion maestro Sheila Escovedo celebrates her 61st birthday with a triple confluence of twelves (her favorite number according to longtime manager Gilbert Davison): month, day, and years since she last played First Avenue with Prince. It's also her first headlining show at the Mainroom since 1984, when Prince-produced *The Glamorous Life* debuted. On 2017's *Iconic: Message 4 America*, Sheila and notable guests (Ringo Starr, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins) cover classics from the Beatles, Staples, Sly, Marvin Gaye, and Allen Toussaint as inspiration for peace, love, and resistance. 18+. 7 p.m. \$45-\$150. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —RICK MASON

SAMANTHA FISH

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, WEDNESDAY 12.12

Samantha Fish cut her teeth on the blues in Kansas City, establishing herself as a fiery, high-caliber electric guitarist and a fervent vocalist with honeyed shades of Janis Joplin. Two weeks ago she signed with the roots-oriented Rounder label, following a move to New Orleans and two impressive but divergent 2017 albums: *Chills & Fever*, focused on vintage soul and R&B, and *Belle of the West*, soaked in seminal Mississippi hill country blues. Fish mostly wields acoustic guitar on the latter, featuring North Mississippi fife, fiddle, and formidable local contributions, including Lightnin' Malcolm on a riveting call-and-response run through R.L. Burnside's "Poor Black Mattie." Jonathon Boogie Long opens. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$18. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —RICK MASON

LARKIN POE

7TH ST. ENTRY, THURSDAY 12.13

Georgia sisters Rebecca and Megan Lovell are blues-steeped duo Larkin Poe, the latter half of their name inspired by distant kin Edgar Allan. Rebecca's tough, declarative vocals and slithery electric guitar, Megan's potent harmonies and swamp-doused lap steel, plus gut-wrenching rhythms translate into borderline feral and noirish rural blues. Their new *Venom & Faith* covers Bessie Jones and Skip James with bristling intensity. Biting originals evoke Southern roots strung from the Delta through gospel, boogie, and the Allmans, amid subtly laced pop hooks and hip-hop. Goodnight, Texas opens. 18+. 7 p.m. \$22-\$25. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —RICK MASON

ATMOSPHERE

PALACE THEATRE, FRIDAY 12.14 AND SATURDAY 12.15

However you want to interpret Atmosphere's recent labeling of themselves as "dad rap," they still retain plenty of the inventiveness that put them at the forefront of Twin Cities hip-hop 20-odd years ago. On their new album, *Mi Vida Local*, Slug is locked in as a writer, wrestling with themes of mortality, pessimism, and uncertainty over Ant's sometimes ominous, sometimes somber beats. The LP has special treats for longtime fans of Minnesota rap, too, including a reunion of Slug's other early group, the Dynospectrum. With Dem Atlas, the Lioness, and DJ Keezy. 18+. 8 p.m. \$30. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. —MICHAEL MADDEN

LIL SKIES

MYTH, FRIDAY 12.14

Lil Skies deserves a face-tattooed spot on the Mount Rushmore of "SoundCloud

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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS



Lil Skies

JIMMY FONTAINE

rap." What the 20-year-old Waynesboro, Pennsylvania native lacks in lyrical maturity he (mostly) makes up for through his natural ease with melody and vibe, sing-rapping his way to a massive online following and moderate Billboard success over cloudy trap beats. Cosigns and collabs with established stars like Wiz Khalifa have helped his rise, but more crucially, Skies is a key figure in a distinctly new school that seems unstoppable on its own. 8:30 p.m. \$39.50. 3090 Southlawn Dr., St. Paul; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN

DOSH & FRIENDS

THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, SATURDAY 12.15

Multi-instrumentalist and looping wizard Martin Dosh's 2013 album and Graveface Records debut, *Milk Money*, was an otherworldly odyssey of hip-hop, jazz, and electronic styles that culminated with the 25-minute closing composition, "Legos (For Terry)." Though he hasn't released anything as a solo artist since, Dosh has kept plenty busy. This year, the guests for his annual "Dosh & Friends" show at the Cedar are Serengeti, StoLyette, and the Guitarkestra of MN. 8 p.m. \$12/\$15. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —MICHAEL MADDEN

MASON JENNINGS

FIRST AVENUE, SATURDAY 12.15

It's December, which means it's time for a Mason Jennings show in the Mainroom. Unlike this time last year, though, the mellow-voiced local folk-pop mainstay has a new record to build a set list from. Jennings is on the heels of his 13th studio LP, May's *Songs from When We Met*, an endearing, contented album inspired by his recent marriage, filled with perfectly uncomplicated sentiments of fresh romantic infatuation and deepening love. With Tiny Deaths. 18+. 7 p.m. \$25/\$30. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1930, some British mystery writers formed a club to provide each other with artistic support and conviviality. They swore an oath to write their stories so that solving crimes happened solely through the wits of their fictional detectives, and not through “Divine Revelation, Feminine Intuition, Mumbo Jumbo, Jiggery-Pokery, or Act of God.” I understand that principle, but don’t endorse it for your use in the coming weeks. On the contrary, I hope you’ll be on the alert and receptive to Divine Revelations, Feminine Intuition, Mumbo Jumbo, Jiggery-Pokery, and Acts of God.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When you’re prescribed antibiotic pills to fight off infection, you should finish the entire round. If you stop taking the meds partway through because you’re feeling better, you might enable a stronger version of the original infecter to get a foothold in your system. This lesson provides an apt metaphor for a process you’re now undergoing. As you seek to purge a certain unhelpful presence in your life, you must follow through to the end. Don’t get lax halfway through. Keep on cleansing yourself and shedding the unwanted influence beyond the time you’re sure you’re free of it.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Danish scientist and poet Piet Hein wrote this melancholy meditation: “Losing one glove is painful, but nothing compared to the pain of losing one, throwing away the other, and finding the first one again.” Let his words serve as a helpful warning to you, Gemini. If you lose one of your gloves, don’t immediately get rid of the second. Rather, be patient and await the eventual reappearance of the first. The same principle applies to other things that might temporarily go missing.

♊ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert is a soulful observer whose prose entertains and illuminates me. She’s well aware of her own limitations, however. For example, she writes, “Every few years, I think, ‘Maybe now I’m finally smart enough or sophisticated enough to understand *Ulysses*. So I pick it up and try it again. And by page 10, as always, I’m like, ‘What the hell?’” Gilbert is referring to the renowned 20th-century novel, James Joyce’s masterpiece. She just can’t appreciate it. I propose that you make her your inspirational role model in the coming weeks. Now is a favorable time to acknowledge and accept that there are certain good influences and interesting things that you will simply never be able to benefit from. And that’s OK!

♊ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): More than three centuries ago, Dutch immigrants in New York ate a dessert known as the *olykoek*, or oily cake: sugar-sweetened dough deep-fried in pig fat. It was the forerunner of the modern doughnut. One problem with the otherwise delectable snack was that the center wasn’t always fully cooked. In 1847, a man named Hanson Gregory finally found a solution. Using a pepper shaker, he punched a hole in the middle of the dough, thus launching the shape you’re at a comparable turning point. If all goes according to cosmic plan, you will discover a key innovation that makes a pretty good thing even better.

♊ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I can’t believe I’m going to quote pop star Selena Gomez. But according to my analysis of the current astrological omens, her simple, homespun advice could be especially helpful to you in the coming weeks. “Never look back,” she says. “If Cinderella had looked back and picked up the shoe, she would have never found her prince.” Just to be clear, Virgo, I’m not saying you’ll experience an adventure that has a plot akin to the Cinderella fairy tale. But I do expect you will benefit from a “loss” as long as you’re focused on what’s ahead of you rather than what’s behind you.

♊ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Among the pieces of jewelry worn by superstar Elvis Presley were a Christian cross and a Star of David. “I don’t want to miss out on heaven due to a technicality,” he testified. In that spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you, too, to cover all your bases in the coming weeks. Honor your important influences. Be extra nice to everyone who might have something to offer you in the future. Show your appreciation for those who have helped make you who you are. And be as open-minded and welcoming and multicultural as you can genuinely be. Your motto is “Embrace the rainbow.”

♊ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Are you a gambling addict seeking power over your addiction? If you live in Michigan or Illinois, you can formally blacklist yourself from all casinos. Anytime your resolve wanes and you wander into a casino, you can be arrested and fined for trespassing. I invite you to consider a comparable approach as you work to free yourself from a bad habit or debilitating obsession. Enlist some help in enforcing your desire to refrain. Create an obstruction that will interfere with your ability to act on negative impulses.

♊ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): “What is the point of being alive if you don’t at least try to do something remarkable?” Author John Green asked that question. I confess that I’m not entirely comfortable with it. It’s a bit pushy. I find I’m more likely to do remarkable things if I’m not trying too hard to do remarkable things. Nevertheless, I offer it as one of your key themes for 2019. I suspect you will be so naturally inclined to do remarkable things that you won’t feel pressure to do so. Here’s my only advice: up the ante on your desire to be fully yourself; dream up new ways to give your most important gifts; explore all the possibilities of how you can express your soul’s code with vigor and rigor.

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the fairy tale “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” the heroine rejects both the options that are too puny and too excessive. She wisely decides that just enough is exactly right. I think she’s a good role model for you. After your time of feeling somewhat deprived, it would be understandable if you were tempted to crave too much and ask for too much and grab too much. It would be understandable, yes, but mistaken. For now, just enough is exactly right.

♊ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1140, two dynasties were at war in Weinsberg, in what’s now southern Germany. Conrad III, leader of the Hohenstaufen dynasty, laid siege to the castle at Weinsberg, headquarters of the rival Welfs dynasty. Things went badly for the Welfs, and just before Conrad launched a final attack, they surrendered. With a last-minute touch of mercy, Conrad agreed to allow the women of the castle to flee in safety along with whatever possessions they could carry. The women had an ingenious response. They lifted their husbands onto their backs and hauled them away to freedom. Conrad tolerated the trick, saying he would stand by his promise. I foresee a metaphorically comparable opportunity arising for you, Aquarius. It won’t be a life-or-death situation like that of the Welfs, but it will resemble it in that your original thinking can lead you and yours to greater freedom.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The National Center for Biotechnology Information reported on a 15-year-old boy who had the notion that he could make himself into a superhero. First he arranged to get bitten by many spiders in the hope of acquiring the powers of Spider-Man. That didn’t work. Next, he injected mercury into his skin, theorizing it might give him talents comparable to the Marvel Comics mutant character named Mercury. As you strategize to build your power and clout in 2019, Pisces, I trust you won’t resort to questionable methods like those. You won’t need to! Your intuition should steadily guide you, providing precise information on how to proceed. And it all starts now.

CROSSWORD

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DOUBLE TEAM

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Legs up
- 7 Shore dinner order
- 15 F, by another name
- 16 Miracle tonics, supposedly
- 17 Comically large number, to some kids
- 19 Horn sound
- 20 Big name in jewelry
- 21 It’ll hold water
- 22 Nat. where transcendentalism was founded
- 23 Bring home
- 24 “I think I’ve got it now”
- 25 Grp. that confiscates water bottles and makeup
- 27 Mini golf implement
- 29 Stroke
- 30 Hairstyle
- 31 Gig allotment for an opener
- 33 “Un Bar aux Folies-Bergère” painter
- 34 Propulsion devices designed for supersonic travel
- 37 Kind of toast
- 38 Moving without thinking
- 39 Weapons that spray
- 40 Miss leaving a church, maybe
- 41 Really must
- 45 Little bit, as of gel
- 46 What’s what in Oaxaca
- 47 Pamprin treats it
- 48 Musical genre invented by Kool Herc
- 49 Gentleman’s title in Louis

- XIV’s court
- 51 Vane dir.
- 52 ___ Jodell (David Tennant’s “Camping” role)
- 53 “That’s not as cool as you think, pal” in some memes
- 56 Acorn sources
- 57 Formula 1 racing star Fernando
- 58 Artificial intelligence in the video game series Portal
- 59 One who rents out a space

Down

- 1 In need of repair
- 2 Diffuse slowly, as through a membrane
- 3 Resident of Dayton, say
- 4 The white stuff?
- 5 MTV series
- 6 “BlacKkKlansman” director
- 7 Big Apple sch.
- 8 Massage
- 9 “Take ___ turn at the light”
- 10 “Twilight” heroine
- 11 “Something, something” (when you don’t know the words)
- 12 TV attorney played by Jonny Lee Miller
- 13 Some photos
- 14 xxx-xx-xxxx ID
- 18 Muffin morsel
- 23 Japanese assassin
- 24 Humana rival
- 26 Toward the back

- 28 Hair detanglers
- 29 Some hammers
- 30 Lake boat
- 32 Put away for later
- 33 Pesky bugs
- 34 Iranian leader overthrown on 9/16/41
- 35 Guy making excuses
- 36 Bluish gray color
- 37 Undrinkable coffee
- 40 D.C.’s mayor Bowser
- 42 Pipes down?
- 43 New Journalism author Gay
- 44 Decide on
- 46 Milk purchase
- 47 Letters on a bicycle tube
- 50 ___ noche (tonight, in Spanish)
- 51 Online crafts site
- 52 “Hot diggity”
- 53 Ride to the shop
- 54 Once called
- 55 Cavs on the board

Last Week’s Answer

N	E	P	A	L	I	S		F	I	N	A	G	L	E
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								S	M	E	L	T	E	R
								R	E	D	E	Y	E	S

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Slight Christmas

My brother outed my kinks to the family.
Now what?

Straight and married but not boring, and heading to my parents' house for our first family Christmas since my asshole MAGA brother "stumbled over" the Tumblr blog where the wife and I posted about our sexual adventures. (Pics of MMF threesomes and cross-dressing/pegging sessions, plus some dirty "true enough" stories.) My brother has always been an angry screwup, so he leapt at the chance to make me look bad by sending the link to my parents, siblings, and family friends. Our Tumblr blog is still up because we aren't ashamed. Any advice?

TOTALLY UNCOOL MALICIOUS BASTARD'S
LAME REVEAL



Dan Savage

hole brother is the bad guy, and any family members who wish to discuss how offended they were by your blog should be directed to speak with your brother.

How can I explain to my sisters that although I am a free sexual woman, I still prefer men as sexual partners? My sisters are both involved with women and they cannot understand how, with all the awful sexual inequality in the world, I can still be primarily attracted to men. Sometimes I even imagine my sexuality as a gay man's sexuality in a woman's body, and I try to explain it to them in this way.

GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT

P.S. I have a straight male friend who says he's a lesbian trapped in a man's body. What do you think of this?

Your Tumblr blog isn't going to be up for much longer; TUMBLR, as the company that owns Tumblr—Verizon—announced last week that all "adult" content is banned as of December 17. And the definition of "adult content" is pretty broad: "photos, videos, and GIFs of human genitalia, female-presenting nipples, and any media involving sex acts, including illustrations," although they will allow genitals and those wicked "female-presenting nipples" in images of classical art.

This is not just a blow to people who use Tumblr for porn—most people who use Tumblr—but also to the sex work community. Forcing sex workers off the internet won't end sex work, the stated goal of anti-sex-work crusaders. What it will do is make sex work more dangerous—which tells us everything we need to know about the motives of anti-sex-work crusaders. Sex workers weren't just advertising online, they were organizing, they were screening potential clients and sharing information with each other about dangerous clients. Just like anti-choice/anti-abortion crusaders, anti-sex-work crusaders don't want to "protect" women; they want to punish women for making choices they disapprove of.

Anyway, fuck your sex-shaming/smut-shaming brother. You and the wife should slap smiles on your faces because you haven't done anything wrong. Your ass-

People don't choose to be straight—some poor motherfuckers are born that way—any more than hetero-romantic bisexuals choose to be hetero-romantic bisexuals. You can't help who you're attracted to, and the contempt of family members can't change a person's sexual or romantic orientation.

As for describing yourself as a gay man trapped in a woman's body and your straight male friend describing himself as a lesbian trapped in a man's body.... Unless the two of you are trans, your friend is just another straight guy mortified by the mess straight people (mostly white, mostly men) have made of the world. You're also mortified by straightness, GITMS, or at least the sexual inequality that often comes bundled with it. But instead of your straight male friend opting out of heterosexuality (which he can't do) or you framing your attraction to men as a gay thing to get your sisters off your back (which you shouldn't have to do), your friend should identify as straight (because he is) and you should identify as someone who doesn't give a shit what her sisters think (because you shouldn't).

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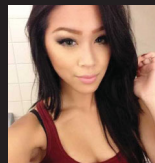
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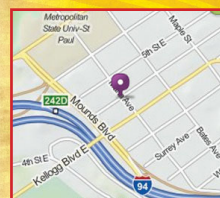
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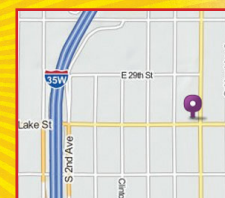
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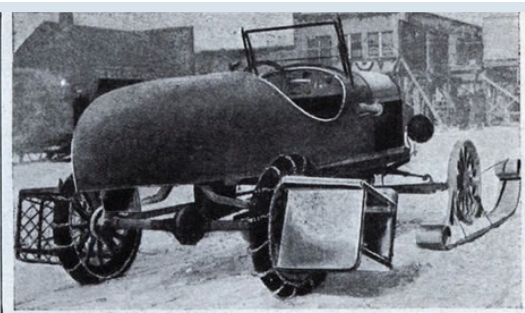


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